



# Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve Request for Proposals Coastal Research Grant

## Request for Proposals

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Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve  
Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control

## **I. INTRODUCTION and PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS**

### *Purpose of Solicitation:*

The Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve (DNERR) of the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control is announcing the availability of grant funding for projects which help fulfill the DNERR Research Goal to “Improve the scientific understanding of the estuarine and coastal ecosystems and the human influence on them”. Specifically, this RFP will support one or more DNERR research priorities which broadly assess natural and anthropogenic impacts on Mid-Atlantic coastal wetlands.

### *Project Description:*

#### **Advancing our understanding of Delaware’s coastal wetlands**

Delaware’s coastal wetlands serve great ecological, economical, and social importance to the lives of residents and visitors of Delaware’s coastal zone. However, climate, land-use, population, and sea level changes, among others, pose unprecedented disturbances to these important habitats. The DNERR is a place-based “living laboratory” making it an ideal location to study the effects of changing ecosystems, environmental processes and biodiversity.

In accordance to the 2013 DNERR management plan, research priorities and goals have been identified to better understand both natural and human-caused impacts on the estuarine systems within Delaware represented by the St. Jones and Blackbird Creek components of the DNERR. The primary objective of this RFP is to conduct novel research which will advance one or more of our research priorities as well as have transferability to the educational and stewardship efforts at DNERR.

These research topics include:

1. Effects of climate change and sea level rise
2. Biodiversity, health, and sustainability of estuarine habitats
3. Restoration practices of estuarine and riparian habitats

These research priorities should help improve our current knowledge of Mid-Atlantic estuary ecosystems and their vulnerability to human impacts with applications to enhance the value of protecting an estuary. Examples of project topics could include, but are not limited to: nutrient dynamics related to altered land-use, ecosystem effects of invasive and non-native species, and habitat changes caused by sea level rise and coastal storms.

It is our intention to keep these research priorities broad in an effort to inspire hypothesis-driven research with implications of habitat protection, quantification of ecosystem services, and improved understanding of short and long-term variability and change.

### **Important Dates and Grant Schedule:**

<b>June 10, 2016</b>	Proposals due to Delaware Coastal Programs office <b>no later than 3:00 pm</b> . <i>Applications received after that time will not be reviewed.</i>
<b>On or before June 17, 2016</b>	Grant awards announced and recipients notified
<b>March 15, 2017</b>	Project completion deadline

## **II. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

### *Applicant Requirements:*

Applicants may be any academic institution or not-for-profit organization working at the local level within the State of Delaware.

### *Award Information:*

Funding for the project receiving a grant award will not exceed \$50,000. The Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve is providing financial support for projects through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The award recipient is required to comply with all federal laws and guidelines pertaining to the use of federal funds.

### *Matching Requirements:*

Funding received under this grant program must be matched dollar for dollar (a 50:50 cost share ratio) by non-federal, state, or local cash or in-kind services. For example, if \$15,000 in federal funds is requested, \$15,000 in state, local, or some other non-federal funds must be shown as match. A variety of expenses can be considered as match including in-kind services, waiving of graduate student tuition and/or fees, student advisor time, volunteer hours, non-federal state or local cash. Deferral of overhead cannot be used as match. For additional information please contact the Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve Office at (302) 739-6377.

### *Ineligible costs:*

Funds may not be used for construction costs, lobbying, scholarships to individuals, deficit reduction activities, projects that have already been completed, or for those activities that constitute legally required mitigation for the adverse effects of an activity regulated or otherwise governed by state or federal law. The award recipient is required to comply with all federal laws and guidelines pertaining to the use of federal funds.

### *Project Duration:*

Work conducted for the project is to be complete by March 15, 2017. Award recipients will be required to submit status reports and will be notified of specific reporting requirements in the grant award agreement.

### III. HOW TO APPLY

#### *Submission of Proposals:*

One (1) signed original **AND** one (1) electronic copy of the proposal and any supporting materials must be submitted to Delaware Coastal Programs Office at the following address **no later than 3:00 pm, June 10, 2016.**

ATTN: DNERR Grant Application

Colleen Holstein  
Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve  
818 Kitts Hummock Rd.  
Dover, DE 19901

Electronic Copy: Colleen.Holstein@state.de.us

#### *Grant Application:*

Grant applicants must contain the following information to be considered a complete application:

Cover Page: The cover page should include the proposal title, Principal Investigator(s) including contact information, start/completion date of project, requested amount of funding, technical and administrative contacts. This page should include the signature of the responsible party submitting the proposal and organization's DUNS number.

Abstract: Include a short abstract of the project suitable for public distribution and federal grant reports. **(1- 2 paragraphs)**

Scope of Work: This section should concisely describe the outcomes of the proposal. It should describe in detail the methods and analyses that will be performed. All results must be statistically valid and defensible. **(1-2 pages)**

Time Schedule and Benchmarks: This section should break down the Scope of Work into tasks with target dates for completion of each task. It should list target milestones, and timelines. This information will also be used to develop a payment schedule. **(1 page)**

Project Budget: This section should provide a detailed budget description and a brief narrative justification of the budget. It should include the amount requested and itemize all expenditures such as personnel, travel, equipment, supplies, contractual costs, indirect costs, and non-federal match sources and amounts. **(1 page)**

CV: Each investigator listed on the proposal must provide a short CV **(1-2 pages)**

**Any project not containing the information outlined above may be disqualified.**

### IV. SELECTION PROCESS

Each project proposal will receive an initial screening by the Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve to ensure the application meets basic eligibility criteria. A committee of

resource experts will then review and rank the eligible proposals and will make recommendations for funding based upon those rankings.

*Proposal Review and Ranking Criteria:*

Technical merit (60%)

- Project will deliver tangible, defensible results
- Proposed outcomes meet the intent of the RFP
- Methods and analyses described are appropriate to meet the goal of the RFP
- Project addresses one or more of the critical research and monitoring topics for the DNERR

Cost effectiveness and budget detail (20%)

- Detailed budget
- Properly identified match
- Overall cost effectiveness

Investigator(s) Qualifications (20%)

- Investigator(s) have the knowledge and experience to successfully complete the project

## **V. GRANTEE RESPONSIBILITIES**

Award recipients will be required to submit semi-annual status reports and will be notified of specific reporting requirements in the grant award agreement. The Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve is providing financial support for projects through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). All award recipients are required to comply with all federal laws and guidelines pertaining to the use of federal funds.

## **VI. CONTACT INFORMATION**

For further details regarding the Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve Coastal Research Grant Program applicants may contact:

Kari St.Laurent, Ph.D.  
DNERR Research Coordinator    **or**  
Kari.Stlaurent@state.de.us  
(302) 739-6377

Kimberly Cole  
DNERR Manager  
Kimberly.Cole@state.de.us  
(302) 739-6377

**The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control solicits and encourages Minority Business Enterprises (MBE) and Women's Business Enterprises (WBE) in all service contracts and is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and diversity of its workforce.**